1	2	3	4
3.	Assam	5	1271.90
4.	Bihar	2	785.82
5.	Chandigarh	2	20.00
6.	Chhattisgarh	4	1274.09
7.	Delhi	7	749.08
8.	Gujarat	4	559.58
9.	Haryana	11	2260.27
10.	Himachal Pradesh	12	2286.22
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	34	6812.65
12.	Jharkhand	7	1130.47
13.	Kerala	6	2447.04
14.	Karnataka	3	1343.44
15.	Maharashtra	4	905.02
16.	Meghalaya	2	674.40
17.	Mizoram	3	1183.74
18.	Madhya Pradesh	16	3952.66
19.	Nagaland	20	2221.99
20.	*Orissa*	*14*	*3443.59*
21.	Puducherry	6	1610.88
22.	Punjab	1	397.89
23.	Rajasthan	2	1554.46
24.	Sikkim	23	5968.48
25.	Tamil Nadu	11	2761.80
26.	Tripura	9	399.04
27.	Uttar Pradesh	7	2788.32
28.	Uttarakhand	5	2081.04
29.	West Bengal	12	2993.52
	TOTAL	248	59240.12

Agreement in Hydrocarbons field with USA

*276. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has signed an agreement with the United States of America (USA) for cooperation in the fields of hydrocarbons;

(b) if so, the details in this regard including the objectives India has to meet and the benefits it is likely to receive under the agreement;

(c) whether it is also a fact that obligations on the country outweigh the benefits likely to be received; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India and the Department of Energy, Government of United States of America entered into an Arrangement on 9th February, 2006 provides for exchange of information relating to the hydrocarbon sector. The objective of cooperation under this Arrangement is to establish a balanced exchange of information and statistical in the sector. Areas of cooperation include the following:—

(i) Exchange of annual hydrocarbon sector market statistics particularly production, imports, exports and stocks;

(ii) Exchange of data and information concerning fuel characterstics, refining capacity and reserves.

(iii) Exchange of information concerning statistical methods, analytics techniques and system documentation.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The activities under this Arrangement are beneficial to both countries.

Problems faced by RRBs

†*277. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite reconstitution of all the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in the country, these banks are not only running under losses but have also failed to achieve their targets;

(b) whether it is also a fact that given the dominance of sponsoring banks, RRBs are facing difficulty in their independent development and working; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) As a result of structural consolidation of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) by amalgamation of RRBs sponsored by the same bank in a State, the number of RRBs have reduced from 196 to 92 as on date. The loss making RRBs have reduced from 22 at the closing of the year 2005-06 to 15 at the closing of the year 2006-07. Out of 15 loss making RRBs, seven RRBs have already booked current profit during the first half of the current year. Of the remaining eight RRBs, four are having losses of less than Rs 1 crore and are likely to post profit by the end of current financial year.

The targets for the RRBs are fixed by the sponsor bank on an annual basis in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Sponsor Bank and the RRB. The sponsor banks regularly hold meetings with Chairmen of RRBs to review the position and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi